

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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September 15, 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

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FCC Mail Room

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45, Annual State Commission Rate Comparability Review and Certification for Areas Served by Non-Rural Carriers.

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.316, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission hereby certifies that the residential telephone rates charged for service as of July 1, 2010, are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide.

In its *Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Memorandum of Opinion and Order* released in the above-referenced docket on October 27, 2003¹, the Federal Communications Commission established an annually-adjusted nationwide rate benchmark as a "safe harbor." Based upon the "safe harbor," rates in rural, high-cost areas that are below the benchmark are presumed to be reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide. The residential rates in rural areas served by FairPoint Communications fall within the safe harbor afforded by 47 C.F.R. § 54.316(b).

If additional information is required, contact Jennifer Ducharme at (603) 271-6028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

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List A B C D E

¹ *Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Memorandum of Opinion and Order*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03-249, 18 FCC Rcd 22559, rel. October 27, 2003.